

# **Josie Montanez**

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## **Heart of the Community Award December 2015**

To be a true Heart of the Community is to serve others with all of your heart and to devote yourself selflessly to making our community a better place for all of its members. Josie Montanez truly embodies everything the Heart of the Community symbolizes and has made lasting contributions in countless organizations on post as well as provided her mentorship to new leaders in our community.

Josie has been active in so many aspects of Camp Zama community life and has contributed greatly to Army Community Services, Arnn Elementary School, FRG, Youth Sports, the Camp Zama Chapel, and of course, ZaCSA. Below are brief descriptions of her services for the betterment of the community.

### **Army Community Service**

Submitted by Angela LeMaster

Ms. Montanez has served as a volunteer for the Camp Zama Army Community Service for over two years. Her knowledge and background were greatly appreciated through her contributions in the Army Family Action Plan and the Army Family Team Building Programs. Her commitments of time and knowledge sharing have increased the quality of life for Camp Zama community members.

Serving as an instructor for the Army Family Team Building program connected her with new Army Spouses in a way that will shape their experiences not only today, but also as they grow in their ongoing Military Family journey.

Submitted by Mary Jansen

In October 2015, we taught a full week of Army Family Team Building for local spouses. We probably spent about 80 hours preparing for the session. In addition, Josie is an active AFTB Instructor, a Master Trainer, Master Resiliency Trainer and advocate for Army Family Action Plan.

### **G-6 Family**

Submitted by Mary Pressley

Josie Montanez has been an important part of the G-6 family. Actually, without her, there probably wouldn't be a G-6 "family".

Josie does her best to make sure all spouses are taken care of, military and civilian. Whether it is keeping contact with a wife when her soldier was in the hospital (even though Josie was in the states), or just calling a spouse to check in on them and make sure all is good, she takes the time and cares.

Taking care of the soldiers is a priority also. Many times a homemade cake shows up in the office for no reason. Last year during YS, she organized a small group of us to go into the office and decorate for the holidays for it would be ready for everyone when they came back. I had one civilian in the office tell me that she had never seen a spouse to involved with the office.

She continuously opened up her home for office dinners. Even though her husband does a lot of the planning, it would not happen if she didn't want it to. She has also invited many of us to their home for holidays.

On a personal note, Josie has been there for me and my family in a way I have never expected. Last year, I had to go back home twice for emergency leave within two months of each other. During the first one, she checked on us to make sure we were okay. During the second one, she kept my kids with her so my husband would accompany me to the funeral and I would not have to pull the kids out of school. I am so grateful she was there for me and I will never be able to repay her for what she has done for me and my family.

She will be greatly missed.

#### **Camp Zama Chapel**

Submitted by Janetlee Hurley

I would like to nominate Josie Montanez for the ZaCSA Heart of the Community Award because she truly holds our community in her heart; especially our youth. This past summer, I needed help with the registration job for Vacation Bible School. When I asked her if she could help with this job, she did so happily, despite her busy schedule. She handled the registrations beautifully. She was committed, organized and very communicative throughout the entire preparatory process. Because of Josie, we were ready for day 1 of VBS and beyond.

Throughout VBS, I was impressed with how many of the children Josie knew and how they responded to her. She took time to interact with all the children and get to know the new children in our community. From working so closely with Josie, I realized how much interest and commitment she has for the well being of all the children in our community. She has a genuine care and respect for people. She is truly a gift to our community.

#### **Arnn Elementary**

Submitted by Iris Cartier

Josie's volunteerism is astounding. Her willingness to give her time and talents to this community goes above and beyond. It is hard to imagine that on top of this service, she has worked as a professional educator at Arnn Elementary School. Josie earned her degree in Elementary Education, completed her Student Teaching, and worked as an educator during her time at Camp Zama. She doesn't just put in the time, she builds relationships and is devoted to enriching the lives of those around her.

#### **Zama Community Spouses' Association**

Submitted by Melanie Kincaid

Josie has been a ZaCSA Member for the three years she lived on Camp Zama, and she has been a huge part of making it a successful and thriving organization. Last year, she literally saved ZaCSA's Annual Auction by stepping in to manage the collection and set-up of the silent and live auction. This year as an Advisor, she has been invaluable for her counsel and guidance.

Throughout her time with ZaCSA Josie devoted countless hours at the store, working on committees, and helping leaders navigate the ins and outs of managing an all woman volunteer organization within military rules and regulations. Josie's dedication and energy will be greatly missed and never replaced.